

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-referenced application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for a radio communication system having a packet ~~data~~data network and multiple network portions, each of said network portions being connected to said packet data network by way of a respective gateway, said apparatus comprising:

a detector adapted to receive values of positional information associated with mobile nodes during operation thereof to communicate by way of said packet data network coupled by way of said respective ~~gateways~~gateway to ~~each of~~ said respective network portions in whose coverage areas that the mobile nodes, respectively, are positioned, said detector configured to form indications of the values of the positional information;

an associator adapted to receive the indications formed by said detector of the values of the positional information, said associator configured to associate positioning of each of the mobile nodes with a corresponding respective network portion, through which communications are effectuated, thereby to identify roaming relationships between each of the mobile nodes and the corresponding network portions when the mobile nodes are roaming; and

a storage element coupled to said associator, said storage element configured to store values representative of associations formed by said associator, the values together forming a roaming network table indicating the roaming relationships, the values forming entries, the mobile nodes identified in terms of their respective home network portions and individual ones of the entries given less weight than other entries, without being deleted, when aged beyond a selected age, the roaming network table accessible to identify the roaming relationships identified therein, usable subsequently to determine roaming capabilities of selected coverage areas of selected network portions.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein each mobile node has an identifier associated therewith and wherein said detector is further adapted to receive the identifier and for detecting values thereof.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the radio communication system comprises a cellular radio communication system that provides for GPRS (General Packet Radio Service) and wherein the identifier associated with each mobile node comprises at least a portion of an IMSI (International Mobile Subscriber Identity) number.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the IMSI number includes a Mobile Network Code (MNC) and wherein the at least the portion of the IMSI number of which said detector detects the values comprises the Mobile Network Code, the Mobile Network Code identifying a home network portion associated with each mobile node, the home network portion a network portion of the multiple network portions.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the IMSI number includes a Mobile Country Code (MCC) and wherein the at least the portion of the IMSI number of which said detector detects the values comprises the Mobile Country Code.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein each mobile node registers with a network portion of the multiple network portions at selected times and wherein the positional information detected by said detector is communicated by each mobile node pursuant to registration with the network part.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein communications of each mobile node are formatted into messages, the messages having header parts and wherein the positional information detected by said detector is embodied in the header parts of the messages.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the roaming network table further includes an indication of a time at which the values representative of the associations are stored at said storage element.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising a roaming table entry deleter coupled to said storage element ~~coupled to said storage element~~, said roaming table entry deleter selectably operable to delete selected values of the roaming entry table maintained at said storage element when aged beyond the selected age.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said roaming table entry deleter deletes values of the roaming network table stored thereat for longer than a selected time period, the selected time period identifying aging beyond the selected age.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for a radio communication system having a packet data network and multiple network portions, each of said network portions being connected to said packet data network by way of a respective gateway, said method comprising the operations of:

detecting values of positional information, the positional information associated with mobile nodes and communicated by the mobile nodes by way of said packet data network coupled by way of said respective ~~gateways~~ gateway to each of said respective network portions in whose coverage areas the mobile nodes, respectively, are positioned;

associating positioning of each of the mobile nodes with corresponding network portions, respectively, through which communications are effectuated, thereby to identify roaming relationships between each of the mobile nodes and the corresponding network portions when the mobile nodes are roaming; and

forming a roaming network table indicating the roaming relationships, the roaming network table comprised of entries in which the mobile nodes are identified in terms of their respective home network portions of which individual ones of the entries are, without being deleted, given less weight than other entries, when aged beyond a selected age, the roaming network table accessible to identify the roaming relationships identified therein; and

using the roaming network table to determine roaming capabilities of selected coverage areas of selected network portions.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein said operation of detecting further comprises detecting values that identify each mobile node.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the radio communication system comprises a cellular radio communication system that provides for GPRS (General Packet Radio Service) and wherein the values that identify each mobile node during said operation of detecting comprise at least a portion of an IMSI (International Mobile Subscriber Identity) number.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the at least the portion of the IMSI number comprises a mobile network code, the mobile network code identifying a home network portion associated with each mobile node, the home network portion a network portion of the multiple network portions.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the at least the portion of the IMSI number comprises a mobile country code.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said operation of forming the roaming table further comprises identifying times at which values are entered thereat.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 further comprising the operations of accessing the roaming network table and determining the roaming relationships indicated therein.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 further comprising the operation of deleting entries out of the roaming network table once aged beyond the selected age.